

	<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Horse Trainer- Full Time</b>
	<b>Department/Group:</b>	Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, LLC/Cattle Ranch
	<b>Location:</b>	Emigrant, Montana

About AMB West: The **AMB West** organization offers world class accommodations, intimate and beautiful natural surroundings, turn-key conference and meeting facilities, and a top-rated guest ranch. Programming is designed to host intimate gatherings and groups desiring a few days “off the grid” and provide extraordinary family vacation experiences. Situated in the heart of Paradise Valley, **West Creek Ranch (WCR)** and **Mountain Sky Guest Ranch (MSGR)** are located on over 14,000 acres of idyllic land in southwest Montana. The diverse landscape includes bottom terrain with over a mile of access to the Yellowstone River, mountain foothill pastures, agricultural fields and livestock yards. The property includes a residence, multiple rustic guest cabins, outdoor pavilions, conference facilities and a wellness center. In addition to the first-class accommodations at WCR and MSGR, guests have access to pristine trails for horseback riding and hiking as well as a golf course and ropes course.

Position Summary: The Horse Trainer’s goal will be to ensure that a high percentage of our horse herd is made up of safe and easily guided guest horses. The successful candidate will commit themselves to this program and will work with us to continually develop this new role.

#### Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- 1) 80% Direct horse training
  - a. Collaborate w/ head and assistant head wranglers to develop and then work on a list of training goals for any horse that is not currently succeeding as a guest horse.
    - i. We recognize that successful training places a heavy emphasis on consistency, and a single person cannot keep 160 horses in training. As such, the scope of the horses actively being trained will grow and shrink based on how many wranglers are working, whether there are guests on site, and the seasonality of our grazing program. In the summer, collaboration with wranglers should enable the trainer to have an impact on a significant percentage of the herd. In the deep winter, we will focus on developing a smaller number of horses.
- 2) 20% Indirect horse training: educate wranglers and guests on high-quality horsemanship in order to increase the overall safety of our program for guests and wranglers alike.
  - a. Teach lessons and clinics for wranglers as time allows, most concentrated in April and May. A primary goal of the trainer’s should be to increase our wranglers’ skills in such a way that they are able to lead safer rides and keep themselves safe while working to improve our ranch horses.
  - b. Teach one two-hour horsemanship demonstration for guests each week.
  - c. Perform other duties as assigned

#### Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- 1) Significant demonstrated experience training horses in a professional capacity
- 2) Experience in a guest ranch setting
- 3) Experience teaching and demonstrating horsemanship to a wide spectrum of students
- 4) Proven communication and organizational skills
- 5) Must have a valid drivers license, be able to lift 50 pounds, and submit to a background check

#### Compensation:

- \$35,000 plus benefits package with health, vision, and dental covered at approximately 90% for primary employee and 75% for dependents.
- 401k matching 100% on up to 6% of your salary
- Optional meals are provided for all employees during our guest season at no charge. Housing is not provided.

To apply: email resume and cover letter to [wranglers@mountainsky.com](mailto:wranglers@mountainsky.com)

## SUPPLEMENT 1: Sample Annual Schedule

- 1) November 1st-April 30: Monday – Friday, Lower Ranch. No guests on site, trainer will work project horses at the Lower Ranch, where there is an indoor arena. Until the herd comes down from winter pasture and spring wranglers arrive to start legging up guest horses, the trainer’s primary duty will be to focus on year-round training horses. When spring help does arrive, the trainer’s focus will broaden to include both progressing the year-round training horses and beginning to work guest horses to ensure that they will be safe enough for guests to ride in early May. Emphasis in the spring will be placed on helping wranglers improve their horsemanship in order to make them more effective at improving ranch horses.
- 2) May through August: Monday – Friday, Upper Ranch. Guests on site. The trainer will have help from wranglers to keep year-round training horses ridden and will therefore be able to dedicate more time to the herd at-large, particularly bolstering training on horses that are newer to or having trouble in the guest string. The position will be based at Upper Ranch during this time, but the trainer can use the indoor facility at Lower Ranch when weather requires.
  - A) Spend several hours per week in the summer trailing portions of guest rides with project horses. (The trainer won’t be leading these rides, a wrangler will; the trainer will be focused on using the group trail ride setting to tune up/ prepare horses for the guest string.)
  - B) Prepare horses for the farrier & then hold horses that need support during shoeing
  - C) Provide occasional emergency help- eg drive a colicky horse to Bozeman.
  - D) Encourage guests and wranglers to observe informal training sessions.
  - E) Work with wranglers to ensure that training goals are being met on their wrangle horses. Teach lessons and clinics for wranglers as time allows, most concentrated in April and May.
  - F) Teach a horsemanship demonstration in the round corral for guests each week
- 3) September through October: schedule may change slightly based on where the herd is located and guest schedule. (e.g. Tuesday through Saturday instead of Monday through Friday). Collaborate with the head wrangler to identify horses that will benefit the most from continuous work through the winter and keep them in full time training. Position will remain based at the Upper Ranch until November 1<sup>st</sup>, when horses go to winter pasture and the training horses will move down to Lower Ranch and the indoor arena.

## SUPPLEMENT 2: Training Goals

### *Horses should:*

- 1) Be forward movers at all gaits without being chargy
- 2) Back up softly
- 3) Have soft upward and downward transitions
- 4) Move laterally with ease (hips, shoulders, sidepass to gate)
- 5) Be slicker broke and not overly reactive to sudden environmental changes
- 6) Leave and return home on a loose rein (not be barn sour)
- 7) Lead easily and move away from light pressure on the ground
- 8) Stand with their head down when they are haltered or bridled
- 9) Be able to be caught and turned out in a soft, relaxed manner
- 10) Be respectful of handler’s personal space
- 11) Lead past (e.g. through a gate)
- 12) Stand well for the farrier
- 13) Be comfortable standing at the mounting block/ picking up off a fence.